

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print control method for performing print processing in an optimal operation mode which is automatically determined in response to a print request from an application program, said print control method comprising:

a response acquiring step in which, by querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, a response is acquired; and

a determination step in which, when the print processing is performed in response to a later print request, an operation mode is determined based on the response acquired in said response acquiring step.

2. A print control method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a print data generating step for, in response to the print request from said application program, generating print data in intermediate condition which is not dependent on a particular page description language; and

a print data analyzing step for analyzing the generated print data after temporarily storing the generated print data.

3. A print control method according to Claim 2, further comprising a step in which, based on a predetermined selection criterion used when the optimal operation mode is automatically determined from data obtained by analyzing the print data and on the response acquired in said response acquiring step, a selection criterion for newly performing automatic setting of the operation mode is set,

wherein, in said determination step, the operation mode is determined based on data obtained by analyzing print data which is input in response to said later print request and on the newly set selection criterion.

4. A print control method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a classification step for outputting classification data by analyzing the print data so that the print data is classified into one of classifications based on the type of the print data; and

a storage step in which, based on the response acquired in said response acquiring step and the classification data output in said classification step, a printing-mode-selecting criterion used when the print processing is performed in response to said later print request is determined for each of the classifications, and the

determined selecting criterion is stored.

5. A print control method according to Claim 4, wherein, in said determination step, the determined selecting criterion stored in said storage step is used as a criterion for, by comparing each of the classifications with the print data, determining an operation mode used when the print processing is performed on said print data to be printed.

6. A print control method according to Claim 2, wherein, in said response acquiring step, by using a plurality of options to query the evaluation of the printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, a selected option is acquired as the response.

7. A print control method according to Claim 1, further comprising a test-print designation step for designating a test print in which a process of querying the evaluation of the print is performed,

wherein, when the test print is designated in said test-print designation step, the evaluation of the print is queried in said response acquiring step.

8. A print data processing apparatus for performing print processing in an optimal operation mode which is automatically determined in response to a print request from an application program, said print data processing apparatus comprising:

response acquiring means for acquiring a response by querying the user of said print data processing apparatus about evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing; and

determination means in which, when the print processing is performed in response to a later print request, the operation mode of said print data processing apparatus is determined based on the response acquired by said response acquiring means.

9. A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising:

print data generating means for, in response to the print request from said application program, generating print data in intermediate condition which is not dependent on a particular page description language;

storage means for temporarily storing the generated print data; and

print data analyzing means for analyzing the stored

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print data.

10. A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising selection-criterion setting means in which, based on a predetermined selection criterion used when the optimal operation mode is automatically determined from data obtained by analyzing the print data and the response acquired by said response acquiring means, a selection criterion for newly performing automatic setting of the operation mode is set,

wherein, based on data obtained by analyzing print data which is input in response to said later print request and on the newly set selection criterion, said determination means determines the operation mode.

11. A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

classification means for classifying the print data into one of classifications based on the type of the print data; and

storage means in which, based on the response acquired by said response acquiring means and the classification data obtained by said classification means, a printing-mode-selecting criterion used when the print processing is performed in response to said later print request is

determined for each of the classifications, and the determined selecting criterion is stored.

12. A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the determined selecting criterion stored by said storage means is used as a criterion for, by comparing each of the classifications with the print data, determining an operation mode used when the print processing is performed on said print data to be printed.

13. A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said response acquiring means uses a plurality of options to query the evaluation of the printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, and acquires a selected option as the response.

14. A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising test-print designation means for designating a test print in which a process of querying the evaluation of the print is performed,

wherein, when the test print is designated by said test-print designation means, the evaluation of the print is queried by said response acquiring means.

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15. A print control program for controlling a print data processing apparatus to execute print processing in an optimal operation mode which is automatically determined in response to a print request from an application program, said print control program comprising:

a response acquiring step in which, by querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, a response is acquired; and

a determination step in which, when the print processing is performed in response to a later print request, the operation mode is determined based on the response acquired in said response acquiring step.

16. A print control program according to Claim 15, further comprising:

a print data generating step for, in response to the print request from said application program, generating print data in intermediate condition which is not dependent on a particular page description language; and

a print data analyzing step for analyzing the generated print data after temporarily storing the generated print data.

17. A print control program according to Claim 16,

further comprising a step in which, based on a predetermined selection criterion used when the optimal operation mode is automatically determined from data obtained by analyzing the print data and on the response acquired in said response acquiring step, a selection criterion for newly performing automatic setting of the operation mode is set,

wherein, in said determination step, the operation mode is determined based on data obtained by analyzing print data which is input in response to said later print request and on the newly set selection criterion.

18. A print control program according to Claim 17, further comprising:

a classification step for outputting classification data by analyzing the print data so that the print data is classified into one of classifications based on the type of the print data; and

a storage step in which, based on the response acquired in said response acquiring step and the classification data output in said classification step, a printing-mode-selecting criterion used when the print processing is performed in response to said later print request is determined for each of the classifications, and the determined selecting criterion is stored.

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19. A print control program according to Claim 18, wherein, in said determination step, the determined selecting criterion stored in said storage step is used as a criterion for, by comparing each of the classifications with the print data, determining an operation mode used when the print processing is performed on said print data to be printed.

20. A print control program according to Claim 16, wherein, in said response acquiring step, by using a plurality of options to query the evaluation of the printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, a selected option is acquired as the response.

21. A print control program according to Claim 15, further comprising a test-print designation step for designating a test print in which a process of querying the evaluation of the print is performed,

wherein, when the test print is designated in said test-print designation step, the evaluation of the print is queried in said response acquiring step.

22. A storage medium containing a print control program according to one of Claims 15 to 21.